

SELFIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 197  
(Motor Repair Shop)  
(BE Maintenance Shop)  
E. of Jefferson Ave. between George  
and Railroad Sts.  
Mt. Clemens vicinity  
Macomb County  
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-G

HAER  
MICH  
50-MTCLE.V,  
1G -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Great Lakes Systems Office  
Department of the Interior  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

SELFRIDGE FIELD,  
BUILDING #197 (MOTOR REPAIR SHOP) HAER No. MI-116-G  
(BE Maintenance Shop)

Location: East of Jefferson Avenue between George and Railroad Streets  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity,  
Macomb County, Michigan  
U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350440.4718980

Significance: This renovated building represents the functional structures  
erected during the initial period of permanent facility construction  
at Selfridge.

Description: This building is a single story, rectangular plan, 88-foot wide by  
32 foot deep, flat-roofed concrete block building that rests on a  
concrete slab foundation and is shielded by a built up pitch and  
gravel roof with a metal fascia. A 12 by 20 foot dependency  
occurs at the southwest corner of the main building. It is reduced  
in height and is distinguished by an engaged square brick standard  
bond smoke stack. The character of its principal (north) elevation  
is defined by five original vehicular entrance bays, four of which  
are now sealed by concrete block curtain walls. An original  
pedestrian entry door now shielded by a pent roof metal roof  
stoop occurs at northeast corner of the building and a second  
entry and flanking steel window occur in the former vehicular  
entry bay at the building's northwest corner. The side elevations  
of the vehicular bays were originally identical, consisting of two  
large window voids with concrete sills. Each has now been  
enclosed with concrete block and glass block and a louvered vent  
now pierces the east elevation. The smokestack dependency  
reveals small glass block windows in its west and south  
elevations.

The interior of the building originally consisted almost entirely of  
vehicular service bays, including a grease pit in the westernmost  
bay, while an 8 foot-wide rank of rooms was partitioned off by  
frame walls at the eastern end of the building to house an office  
and stock room. Today the building is entirely open space.

History: This "Motor Repair Shop" was erected in 1933 from plans  
provided by the War Department during Selfridge's initial  
enlargement. The current boiler room was added in 1943 from  
plans by the U.S. Engineers Field Office at Selfridge. Some minor  
alteration and upgrades occurred in 1946 and 1955. In 1974 the

service bays were filled by concrete block and the current fenestration patterns was realized. The eastern half of the structure was partitioned off by frame walls to serve as a sheet metal shop, while a storage room and office occupied the center of the building and the two western bays became a welding shop from designs by the U.S. Engineers Field Office and the Office of the Post Engineer. Today the building serves as Mobility Storage, equipment required by units during field exercises.

Sources:

Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

Copy of construction drawing, dated May 7, 1943, U.S. Engineers Field Office, Selfridge Field, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Changes and Additions to Motor Repair Shop, Job N-354, Drawing No. 1/300.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.

Historian:

William E. Rutter  
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
May, 1996